

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding of an optical fiber ~~article~~ preform, comprising the steps of:
  - providing an elongate glass article;
  - adhering a layer of soot to the elongate glass article;
  - forming a first sintered layer by sintering said layer of soot such that said first sintered layer includes voids that are at least one of empty or comprise a gas and that remain so as to contribute to truncated regions of an optical fiber drawn from the optical fiber preform;
  - adhering a different layer of soot to the elongate glass article;
  - forming a different sintered layer by sintering the different layer of soot such that said different layer is substantially free from voids;
  - providing a core;
  - ~~refraining from sintering that would cause said voids to fail to remain in said first sintered layer, and~~
  - wherein said first and second layers form at least a part of the cladding, said cladding surrounding the core, of the optical fiber article.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 including drawing the optical fiber preform ~~elongate glass article~~ into an optical ~~glass~~ fiber.
3. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding of an optical fiber ~~article~~ preform, comprising the steps of:
  - providing a hollow elongate glass article;
  - adhering a layer of soot to a surface of the elongate glass article;
  - forming a sintered layer by sintering the layer of soot such that the sintered layer includes voids that are at least one of empty or comprise a gas and that remain so as to contribute to

truncated regions of an optical fiber drawn from the optical fiber preform, said sintered layer forming a portion of the cladding;

providing a second elongate glass article for providing one of at least a portion of a core surrounded by said portion of the cladding and a different portion of the cladding where the different portion is substantially free of voids;

~~refraining from sintering that would cause said voids to fail to remain in said first sintered layer, and~~

oversleeving one of the glass articles with the other of the glass articles; and wherein, if the step of providing the second elongate glass article does not include providing said at least a portion of a core, then

providing a core, said core being surrounded by the cladding.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 including drawing the ~~oversleeved glass articles~~ optical fiber preform into an glass optical fiber.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding of an optical fiber ~~article~~preform, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate glass article;

adhering a layer of soot to the elongate glass article;

forming a first sintered layer by sintering said layer of soot, said first sintered layer forming a portion of the cladding;

~~subsequent to forming the first sintered layer,~~ adhering a different layer of soot to the elongate glass article;

exposing the different layer of soot to a selected material in the form of a gas or liquid for absorption by the different layer of soot; ~~and~~

forming a different portion of the cladding by sintering the different layer of soot to form a second sintered layer;

providing a core, said core being surrounded by said cladding; and

refraining from exposing said layer to said selected material such that said layer remains unexposed to said selected material when an optical fiber is drawn from the preform.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 including drawing the ~~elongate~~-optical fiber preform into an optical glass-fiber.

7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Withdrawn)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding of an optical fiber preform-article, comprising the steps of:

providing a hollow elongate glass article;

adhering a layer of soot to the inside of the elongate glass article;

exposing the layer of soot to a selected material in one of a gas and liquid form for absorption by the soot;

forming a portion of the cladding by sintering the soot;

providing a second glass article for providing one of at least a portion of a core surrounded by said portion of said cladding and a different portion of the cladding; ~~and~~ oversleeving one of the glass articles with the other of the glass articles; and wherein, if the step of providing the second elongate glass article does not include providing said at least a portion of a core, then

providing a core, said core being surrounded by the cladding.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 including drawing the optical fiber preform glass-articles into an glass-optical fiber.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding of an optical fiber preform-article, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate glass article;

adding glass to the article for forming a first part of the cladding, the added glass including discrete regions having a different index of refraction than the added glass and remaining so as to contribute to truncated regions of an optical fiber drawn from the optical fiber preform; and

adding glass without discrete regions to the elongate glass article for forming another part of the same cladding; and

providing a core, said core being surrounded by the cladding.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 comprising disposing a second cladding about the cladding, the second cladding comprising an index of refraction lower than an index of refraction comprised by the cladding.